Greece G.E.T. Flight Captions

Caption 1- Athens

According to Our World, Athens is a city-state [polis] located on the small peninsula of Attica, sticking out of the Greek mainland; Macedonia. The Greek mainland is a peninsula located at the tip of the Balkan Peninsula. Attica is the most fertile area in Greece. Greece is mainly a mountainous, rugged land that is not very suitable for growing enough grain. Greece does have many natural metals at their disposal, olive trees, and Grape vines. These specific plants grow here because the mild/hot Mediterranean Greek climate supports their specific needs. The natural metals [bronze, silver, copper, etc.] are abundant here because; the mountains, caves, and cliffs of Greece conceal these metal treasures.

According to Cr. Karr’s Essay on Greek Economy, Athens was a near-coastal settlement, so it had a coastal economy. Greece is a mountainous land, and there are only some areas of fertile wheat/barley growing land. These areas didn’t produce sufficient grain amounts to completely sustain the food economy of Greece. Greece did have lots of Olive Trees and Grape Vines though. These were scarce commodities in other lands, and had a great value. These were widely exported by Greeks for extra wheat and money of course.

According to “The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization”, Athens gained a lot of power and wealth because they were such trading behemoths. In Athens the most commonly domesticated, and herded animals were; goats, sheep, and pigs. Cattle were rarely herded because they needed too much space to graze. The wool from sheep is used to make cloth for clothing and blankets. Grapes were turned into wine. Olives were turned into olive oil and lotion for skin. Silver and more natural metals were also mined from the mountains to be traded and turned into goods. With clay from the terrain of Greece, the people of Athens [potters] turned this clay into beautifully decorated and crafted pots, and bowls. The Athenians set up trade routes throughout the Mediterranean Sea to Italy, Egypt, North Africa, Persia, and Assyria to easily trade their vast arsenal of goods. These were protected and safe sea routes that lead to harbors [sheltered port towns on the coast] in each land they traded with. The most common jobs that sustained the economy in Athens were; potters, farmers, metalworkers, miners, stoneworkers, builders, tradesmen, soldiers, fishermen, and many, many more. This was the basic Sea Economy of Athens.

According to Our World, The city and people of Athens invented and used many tools and inventions that helped them along their historical path. One very important invention that Athens used, and mainly invented was the study of Geometry. Geometry is the study of shapes, angles, and lines. It greatly influenced the beautiful Greek architecture that came out of the city of Athens. Athenian architecture mainly consisted of pillars, columns, and great slanted rooftops or pinnacles. This architecture can be shown in many great buildings of Athens’ Acropolis, such as; the theater of Dionysus, and the Parthenon. The Agora of Athens was also located on the Acropolis. An Agora is a public/government official meeting place. Many government buildings were located on or around the Agora. Focusing on government, the type of government Athens had was a democracy. The first in the world!!!!!! A democracy is a government where the people get to vote on important government matters. The people of Athens voted and talked about important matters in an area called an assembly. With this type of government there was also a jury in a court. A jury is a group of experienced people who listen to a case and decide things about it with the judge, like we do today!!! Focusing on routes, the people of Athens had trade routes, which are; [definition in first economy paragraph]. The people of Athens also built mountain roads, routes, and paths, so people could get through mountain ranges to get in or out of the city’s area. Lastly, focusing on war, Athenian soldiers generally had bronze armor; mined from the mountains, and phalanxes; long spears that can kill from a distance. The Greeks also used a special ship called a trireme, which is a ship with three rows of oars, and an underwater rammer that can smash into the hull of another ship and sink it. These were some tools that the Athenians used.

Caption 2- Sparta

According to Our World, The Polis of Sparta is located in the southwest region of the peninsula; Peloponnesus, which is connected to the peninsula of Attica by a small isthmus. Sparta is located in a very mountainous region of Greece; more mountainous than Athens. The climate of Sparta is a mild/hot Mediterranean climate. The Ionian Sea and the Aegean Sea are near Sparta. These seas are located in the Mediterranean Sea. There is a mountain in the middle of the polis of Sparta where Sparta’s agora is located. There are areas of farmland in Sparta too, but not enough to sufficiently support Sparta. The city-state of Sparta controlled much of the southern Peloponnesus.

According to Our World and Dr. Karr’s Essay, The economy of Sparta was a very militaristic slave-like economy. The most common job for a man was to be a Spartan soldier, because men were trained from early childhood to become smart, strong warriors. Women were trained to become strong, mothers, of strong children who will become mothers, powerful aristocratic leaders, or soldiers. Helots were farmers that supplied Sparta with its food supply. Helots were conquered people who were allowed to live on Spartan land, but had to give half of the food they got every season to the Spartan government. The most commonly grown crops in Sparta were; olives, grapes, barley, and wheat. The most commonly domesticated animals were sheep, goats, and pigs. Cattle were not domesticated much, because it needed too much land to graze. Focusing on trade, The Spartans used trade routes, which were safe, routes that lead to other lands that Sparta traded with. Some major exports were; olive oil and lotion from olives, wine from grapes, wool cloth from sheep, and pottery and metal goods. Finally, the Spartan government was an oligarchy. An oligarchy is a government where the wealthiest and most powerful people of the city were in control of its military, economy, laws, and so on.

Sparta had and used many inventions and tools as one of the Greek city-states. The polis of Sparta had an agora where government buildings were located, and where aristocrats met to discuss important matters about Sparta. Sparta used the ideals of classic Greek architecture. Greek architecture is mainly consists of pillars, columns, and fancy slanted rooftops. Focusing on war materials, the soldiers of Sparta had fancy bronze armor, and phalanxes. Phalanxes are long spears that can kill a man from a great distance. Focusing on trade, the people of Sparta used trade routes; [definition in previous paragraph], and harbors; sheltered towns on the coast where ships can unload, upload their goods, and where ships can dock. These were some tools and inventions that Sparta used.